

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A method for provisioning users with resources, the method comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3                 establishing a set of attributes, organizational information, and user roles;  
4                 defining a plurality of resource provisioning policies based on selected  
5 attributes, organizational information, and user roles;  
6                 receiving attribute information, organizational information, and user role  
7 information for a particular user, resource, or database;  
8                 determining which resource provisioning policies are applicable to the user  
9 based on the received user role information, organizational information, and attribute  
10 information;  
11                seeking additional information or authorizations from third parties in accordance  
12 with the applicable resource provisioning policies; and  
13                provisioning the user with the resources specified by the applicable resource  
14 provisioning policies if all necessary additional information or authorizations have been  
15 received from the third parties.

1           2.     A method as recited in claim 1, the step of receiving attribute information,  
2 organizational information, and user role information comprising the step of receiving input  
3 from a user interface.

1           3.     A method as recited in claim 1, the step of receiving attribute information,  
2 organizational information, and user role information for a particular user comprising  
3 receiving attribute information and user role information from an employee records database.

1           4.     A method as recited in claim 2, the step of seeking additional information or  
2 authorizations from third parties comprising the steps of:  
3                 providing the third party with access to the user interface;  
4                 indicating to the third party which information or authorization needs to be  
5 supplied; and  
6                 suspending the provisioning of resources to the user until the additional  
7 information or authorization is supplied.

1           5.     A method as recited in claim 1, the step of seeking additional information or  
2 authorizations from third parties comprising the steps of:  
3                 receiving first additional information or authorizations from third parties in  
4 accordance with the applicable resource provisioning policies; and  
5                 seeking second additional information or authorizations from other third parties  
6 or the user based on the received first additional information or authorizations and the received  
7 attribute information, organizational information, and user role information.

1           6.     A system for provisioning users with resources, the system comprising:  
2                 a data server for storing a set of attributes, organizational information, and user  
3 roles, a plurality of resource provisioning policies based on selected attributes, organizational  
4 information, and user roles, and attribute information and user role information for a particular  
5 user or resource; and  
6                 one or more processors coupled to the memory and an organizational network,  
7 the processors programmed for  
8                 determining which resource provisioning policies are applicable to the  
9 stored user role information, organizational information, and attribute information,  
10                 seeking additional information or authorizations from third parties in  
11 accordance with the applicable resource provisioning policies, and

12 provisioning a user with the resources specified by the applicable  
13 resource provisioning policies if all necessary additional information or authorizations have  
14 been received from the third parties.

1 7. A system as recited in claim 6, further including a user interface for inputting  
2 the attribute information and user role information for a particular user or resource.

1 8. A system as recited in claim 6, the data server further including an employee  
2 records database for storing attribute information and user role information for a particular  
3 user.

1 9. A system as recited in claim 7, the processor further programmed for:  
2 providing the third party with access to the user interface;  
3 indicating to the third party which information or authorization needs to be  
4 supplied; and  
5 suspending the provisioning of resources to the user until the additional  
6 information or authorization is supplied.

1 10. A system as recited in claim 6, the processor further programmed for:  
2 receiving first additional information or authorizations from third parties in  
3 accordance with the applicable resource provisioning policies; and  
4 seeking second additional information or authorizations from other third parties  
5 or the user based on the received first additional information or authorizations and the stored  
6 attribute information, organizational information, and user role information.